



Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor

MAYOR ANNOUNCES GOOD NEWS FOR HARTFORD TAXPAYERS

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(July 6, 2011)--- Standing by one of the key goals, and real successes, of his administration, today, Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra announced that prudent, fiscal responsibility and decisions are paying off for Hartford taxpayers.

“I have always said that my primary charge as Mayor is to take great care of how the taxpayers’ money is spent. Today, I am proud to announce that those hard earned dollars are being invested frugally and efficiently,” said Mayor Segarra.

Earlier in the day, the Mayor submitted an Emergency General Fund Appropriation and a Modified Tax Levy ordinance to City Council.

For the second straight year, the Mayor is returning at least \$2.3 million dollars to the Fund Balance for the Fiscal Year that just ended. This was achieved through a hiring freeze, scrutiny of all expenditures, and the close monitoring of overtime.

Revenue projections have been revised by \$3 million. The Mayor thanked the Governor and the Hartford Legislative Delegation for preserving state aid and providing property tax relief by maintaining PILOT and the Tax Relief Grant.

“One of the biggest achievements during these challenging economic times is that because of strong fiscal management, there will be an additional ½ mill reduction. So, the mill rate will go down from 72.29 to 71. 79. This is in addition to the ½ mill reduction achieved earlier this year, so Hartford property taxes will go down a full mill rate,” announced the Mayor.

A Supplemental General Fund Appropriation has also been presented to City Council in the amount of \$1.25 million. This money will be dedicated to:

- 1) Anti-blight efforts that will include adding 3 inspectors to the one that was already in the budget; adding a lawyer and dedicating 2 interns to address these issues; adding additional DPW staff (minimum of 8, potentially 16);
- 2) The doubling of the Neighborhood Development Fund from \$2 million to \$4 million.
- 3) The total financial commitment to fully implement the Livable and Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative (which is the jumpstart of One City, One Plan for conservation and development)

Lastly, the Mayor has directed the COO to review all non-bargaining unit staff members (many who have not seen a cost of living increase in as many as 5 years) and report back on the possibility of providing a performance based cost of living increase. At most, this would affect no more than 75 people and would cost less than \$150,000.

The Mayor emphasized that these are all prudent fiscal investments that reward good work on the part of the City and even better work on behalf of the residents of the City of Hartford.